

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Lawrence County Association,

HELD WITH

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH,

LAWRENCE COUNTY, MISS.,

*Beginning Friday Before the First Sunday
in October, 1904.*



OFFICERS:

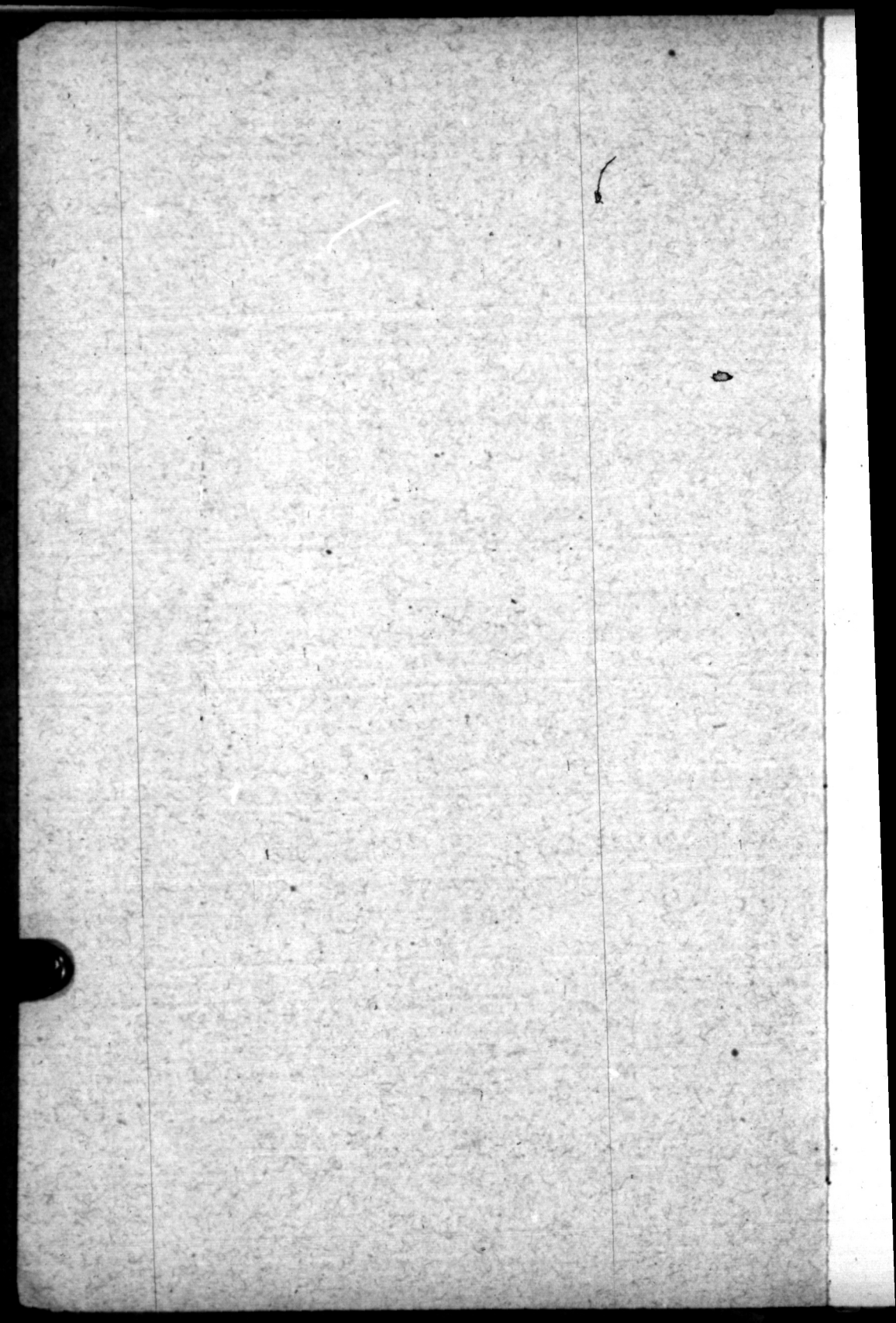
L. D. POSEY, Moderator,

WADE POLK, Clerk,

J. M. ARMSTRONG, Treasurer.



PRESS PRINT, MONTICELLO.



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—OF THE—

Lawrence County Association.

ANTIOCH CHURCH, MISS., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1904.

The Lawrence County Association met this day with the Antioch Baptist church, Lawrence County, Miss., in its fourth annual session, at the appointed hour.

After devotional exercises, conducted by Eld. S. Morris, prayers were offered by Elds. T. J. Moore and L. D. Posey.

In the absence of the Moderator, the Clerk announced the Association in order for business.

On motion, Eld. L. D. Posey was elected Moderator *pro tempore*.

On motion, the reading of the letters was dispensed with, and a committee of three appointed on Credentials and Abstracts, consisting of Brethren J. M. Polk, W. J. Armstrong, and J. F. Bass.

Brethren A. A. Russell and I. E. Fortenberry were appointed as a committee on Finance to assist the Treasurer in receiving contributions from the churches.

While waiting for the report of the committee on Credentials, Bro. J. E. Byrd gave the Association a lecture on Christian Character, which was helpful to all who heard it.

The committee on Credentials reported the following-named delegates in attendance:

Antioch—R. Criscoe, J. J. Osteen, J. F. Thames, J. N. Gunnels and Leonard Griffith.

Bethel—A. H. McGuffee, J. M. Ritchie and Luke Polk.

Bethany—J. M. Polk and W. M. Waller.

Crooked Creek—A. C. and C. C. Culpepper.

Calvary—J. P. Williams and J. M. Armstrong.

Hepzibah—J. L. Speights.

Monticello—S. Hickman.

New Zion—A. A. Russell, R. H. Townsend and W. T. Foster.

New Hope—J. J. Catt, J. L. Catt and T. C. Nelson.

Prentiss—T. J. Moore and T. E. Davidson.

Rehoboth—Lee H. Bird.

Shiloh—E. Carlisle, W. R. Gibson, A. C. Furr and E. B. White.

Silver Creek—W. J. Armstrong, I. E. Fortenberry and G. H. Garrett.

Society Hill—L. D. Posey, J. M. Fortenberry, J. F. Bass, F. W. Langston, J. W. Langston and J. O. Robertson.

Whitesand—J. Z. Polk and J. F. Burrow.

On motion, the rules were suspended and the officers elected by acclamation, as follows: Eld. L. D. Posey, Moderator; Wade Polk, Clerk, and J. M. Armstrong, Treasurer.

On motion, the Associational sermon was called for, and preached by Eld. J. P. Williams, from 2nd Timothy: 3:15, which was edifying to all present.

Prayer by Eld. R. Drummond.

On motion, adjourned for one hour.

Prayer by Eld. S. Morris.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Eld. J. C. Farrar.

Petitionary letters called for, when Prentiss Baptist church was received as a member of this body.

Received correspondence as follows:

From Strong River Association—R. Drummond and S. Morris.

From Copiah Association—J. C. Farrar.

From Pearl Leaf Association—J. E. Byrd.

From Lincoln County Association—W. R. Weber.

For Sunday School Work of Convention Board—J. E. Byrd.

For Home Mission Board—T. J. Moore.

Arranged correspondence as follows:

To Pearl River Association—J. M. Ritchie, J. M. Fortenberry and A. H. Guffee.

To Lincoln County Association—Jno. Osteen and A. A. Russell.

To Pearl Leaf Association—T. J. Moore, J. M. Polk, L. D. Posey and J. P. Williams.

To Bogue Chitto Association—J. M. Ritchie.

To Strong River Association—W. R. Gibson and E. B. White.

To Lawrence County Colored Association—E. B. White, W. R. Gibson, C. C. Culpepper, J. P. Williams and J. M. Ritchie.

To Copiah Association—E. B. White, W. J. Townsend, W. T. Foster, W. R. Gibson, J. F. Burrow and Wade Polk.

To Baptist State Convention—J. P. Williams, T. J. Moore, L. D. Posey, E. B. White, J. M. Armstrong, J. O. Robertson and J. F. Bass.

On motion, Eld. T. J. Moore was elected by acclamation as our messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention and Eld. L. D. Posey alternate.

On motion, the Association ask the churches to raise same amounts as was apportioned them, and printed in last year's minutes, to defray our messenger's expenses to said Convention, and that said amounts be collected and forwarded to Eld. T. J. Moore, Prentiss, Miss., by May 1, 1905, viz: Antioch, \$3.00; Bethel, 2.00; Silver Creek, 3.00; Hepzibah, 2.00; Society Hill, 4.00; New Zion, 2.00; Prentiss, 5.00; Calvary, 5.00; Crooked Creek, 3.00; Monticello, 3.00; Whitesand, 2.00; New Hope, 2.00; Bethany, 5.00; Shiloh, 3.00; Rehoboth, 2.00.

On motion, eleven o'clock to morrow was set as special hour for report on Missions.

The appointees and their reports, appointed at last session to write reports, on Sunday Schools, Ministerial Education, Denominational Schools and Orphans' Home, being absent, the following were appointed in their stead to write reports for tomorrow, viz:

On Sunday Schools—J. F. Burrow.

On Ministerial Education—J. F. Burrow.

On Denominational Schools—J. M. Ritchie.

On Orphans' Home—W. J. Armstrong.

Committees were appointed as follows:

On Religious Exercises—R. Criscoe, W. P. Boutwell, H. T. Shivers, J. F. Thames and W. M. Lambert.

On Nominations—J. M. Ritchie, W. M. Waller, J. M. Fortenberry, J. L. Speights and W. T. Foster.

On Apportionment:

Antioch—R. Criscoe.

Bethel—Luke Poik.

Bethany—J. M. Polk.

Calvary—J. P. Williams.

Crooked Creek—C. C. Culpepper.

Hepzibah—J. L. Speights.

Monticello—S. Hickman.

New Zion—R. H. Townsend.

New Hope—T. C. Nelson.

Rehoboth—Lee H. Bird.

Shiloh—A. C. Furr.

Society Hill—J. M. Fortenberry.

Silver Creek—W. J. Armstrong.

Whitesand—J. F. Burrow.

Prentiss—T. E. Davidson.

The report on Pastoral Relations was read, and spoken to by Wade Polk, J. P. Williams, T. J. Moore, J. C. Farrar, W. R. Weber, S. Morris, R. Drummond, as follows:

REPORT ON PASTORAL RELATIONS.

Pastors, figuratively, are keepers, or overseers, of God's flock—the Church. Therefore, his relations extend to every member of his church, to every individual of his community, and to every organization organized in his churches or community for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom on earth, and for the spiritual development and advancement of his people.

It is, therefore, absolutely essential that he so act and work that his people have implicit confidence in his piety, devotion, energy and consecration. When the pastor has the confidence,

the love and esteem of those to whom he ministers he is master of the situation, and must succeed. Therefore, his first duty is to the church, second, to its members individually, and third, to those that are unsaved.

First—his duty to the church. He should “study to show himself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,” having well prepared sermons, suiting, or rather fitting, the conditions of the membership, that they may be warned of their negligences (commissions and omissions) and encouraged along the lines of Scriptural obedience in all things set forth in the New Testament Scriptures. He should look well to the purity of the church, by insisting on the church to discipline disorderly members, as taught by Christ himself and by the apostle Paul, that the dignity and mission of the church at all times may be upheld, that the world may know the church will not allow any of its members to openly violate the church covenant and the teachings of the New Testament. In all the organizations fostered by the church, the pastor should be first, or counsellor, for the leaders or officers of those organizations to go to for advice and help. Therefore, he should spare no pains or efforts to be well prepared to render the help sought, and at times so much needed, and especially in Sunday school work.

Second—In his relations to the members individually it is absolutely necessary that the pastor be personally acquainted with each member of his churches if he expects to have their co-operation in what he undertakes to do in church work. But how to accomplish the task of becoming acquainted with all the membership of country churches by country pastors cannot be solved by your committee, nor can it be done by the country pastors unless the membership will go to their churches to meet their pastors, which is their Christian duty to church and pastor. Pastoral work done during visits have accomplished more in some instances, your committee believes, than could have been accomplished from the pulpit; hence, the necessity for pastoral visits. But it is impossible for a country pastor to make a personal visit to each family in his territory. He should, however, make all the visits he can, not neglecting his own family.

Third—In his relations to the unsaved the pastor "should be as wise as a serpent and as harmless as a dove," for the world is looking for excuses to go on its ways of sin—for excuses to criticise preachers, church members, and Christianity even—and one rash act of his in the wrong place, or one hasty word spoken at the wrong time, would destroy his influence for good and be of incalculable harm to the cause of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

WADE POLK, Chairman.

On motion, the report was adopted, after being amended, as follows: "It is also the duty of the churches to co-operate with their pastors in the work, pray for them, and pay sufficient salaries for their support."

On motion, adjourned to meet to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

Prayer by Eld. J. M. Ritchie.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION, 9 O'CLOCK.

Devotional exercises conducted by Eld. R. Drummond, prayers being led by Bro. J. E. Byrd and Eld. J. P. Williams.

The Moderator announced the Association in order for business.

The minutes of yesterday's session were read, corrected and approved.

The report on Church Discipline was read, spoken to by Elds. L. D. Posey, J. C. Farrar, J. M. Ritchie, R. Drummond, W. R. Weber, T. J. Moore, S. Morris and J. P. Williams, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

The question of Church Discipline is one which most people approach with fear and trembling. I think this is due to the fact that few people understand its importance, while from others it is from a lack of moral courage to do what is known to be their duty.

The primary purpose of discipline is to prepare for usefulness, but some people speak of it in regard to church membership as if it had no other meaning than to exclude from fellow-

ship in a church. Soldiers are trained, or disciplined, that they may be prepared for service when the times comes for duty, and the same is true in Christianity if we look at it from a proper point of view. Members should be taught, trained, given examples to follow, corrected when mistakes are made, all for the purpose of having them "thoroughly furnished unto every good work."

But when members get out of order, as is often the case, what is to be done? Deal with them promptly—firmly, but tenderly. My observation is that when a church member falls into sin it is a very easy matter to tell then whether or he is a child of God by the way he behaves himself when the church takes measures to bring him back to duty. If he is easily approached, and willing to do what is reasonable and right, it is a pretty good sign that you are dealing with a converted man, and there is some encouragement to work; but if he begins to make excuses and lay the blame on some one else, or if he gets mad and begins to assert his privileges, or if he has to be humored and petted like a spoiled child, or if he has to be dragged into terms with the church, it is pretty clearly evident to my mind that he is ignorant of the grace of God, and the best thing the church can do is to get rid of him on short order. "My people shall be a willing people," says the Lord, and my experience is that it is like all other Scripture—true.

One other thing that we need constantly to bear in mind is that church membership is not essential to salvation, and that if a truly converted man is excluded from the church he is quite likely to come back and confess his wrong and ask the church for restoration, and when he does, he is usually a better member than ever before. In all my experience as a Christian and observer of church work, I have seen but one man reclaimed from the prevalent sins of this day, after he had gone deep into them like a great many do without first being excluded from church fellowship.

One other thing that needs constantly to be bourn in mind in the study of this question is that there are some sins so great that nothing short of exclusion will vindicate the cause of Christ and maintain the dignity of the church, and God has sealed this

tact by withholding his blessings from churches that tolerate these flagrant sins and pouring out abundant blessings upon those that do regard His word and exercise strict discipline.

Still another thing to be kept in mind is that when sins are committed by church members either the church or the individual must suffer as a result of it, and it is much better for one man to suffer than for the Cause of Christ to languish. Then for the sake of the Cause, exclude for gross sins, such as drunkenness, fornication, adultery, idolatry, and covetousness.

Respectfully submitted,

L. D. POSEY, Committee.

The report on Denominational Schools was read, discussed by Elds. J. M. Ritchie, J. P. Williams, J. C. Farrar, T. J. Moore, and Brethren J. E. Byrd and J. F. Burrow, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Denominational Schools submits the following report:

We have Mississippi College at Clinton, Miss., for boys and young men that we would recommend as *the* very best school for our young men. We have other schools that claim our patronage and support—Hillman College at Clinton, and Blue Mountain Female at Blue Mountain, Miss.

We, as Baptists, ought to patronize these schools, and give them our support and all the encouragement in our power; first, because they are Baptist schools; second, because they are governed and controlled by the very best teachers, and are surrounded by the best morals, and are located in healthy places.

For theological training, we would recommend the Seminary, at Louisville, Ky.

All these schools are Baptist schools and are under the control of, and are the property of, Baptists, and should receive our endorsement and undivided support.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. RITCHIE, Committee.

The report on Ministerial Education was read and spoken to by Eld. T. J. Moore.

The special hour having arrived for the report on Missions, the discussion of the report on Ministerial Education was suspended, the congregation singing, "Glory over Thee," and Eld. S. Morris leading in a special prayer for Missions.

The report was read and ably spoken to by Elds. J. P. Williams, M. L. Foster, T. J. Moore, Bro. J. M. Polk and Eld. S. Morris.

On motion, the Association adjourned for one hour.

Benediction by Eld. J. P. Williams.

Met pursuant to adjournment; prayer by Eld. T. J. Moore.

The Association sang "Nearer, My God, to Thee" in the spirit, after which the Moderator announced the Association in order for business.

The discussion of the report on Missions was continued, being spoken to by Brethren W. R. Gibson, Wade Polk, and Elds. W. R. Weber, J. C. Farrar and T. J. Moore.

On motion, the report was adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

As your committee has to report on the entire field of Missions, our statements must be brief.

The subject is really one. The divisions are for convenience. We have no doubt that the work is in accord with our Lord's command. The "go ye into all the world" of our Saviour is enough. Our organization for carrying on the work seems well-nigh perfect. The independence and local self-government of the churches are preserved, yet the fullest freedom in co-operation secured.

The enterprises carried on by the Baptists as a great denomination are a marvel in their efficiency, but when we remember that they are held together by no other tie than that of fellowship the wonder grows.

Our State Mission work, with a Board located at Jackson and A. V. Rowe as Secretary, is doing a work, the value of which can hardly be realized. It follows up new lines of railroads with its missionaries, establishing churches in destitute

places, strengthening weak churches wherever needed, looking after the interests of the Cause, especially on the Coast and in the Delta. Mississippi Baptists gave \$15,391 02 to this work, and there were 461 baptisms, 1,016 received by letter and 27 restored by State missionaries the last Conventional year.

The Home Mission Board, located in Atlanta, Ga., with B. D. Gray as Secretary, is grappling with questions of temporal and eternal salvation. Work to be done in large cities, in mountain districts, in Cuba, on the frontiers and among the negroes is committed with care. There is much being accomplished. Southern Baptists gave to this work last Convention year \$127,850 56, and there were 7,526 baptisms, 9,271 received by letter, and 157 churches organized.

The Foreign Mission Board, located in Richmond, Va., with R. J. Willingham as Secretary, has in charge the work among heathen and Catholic nations. This work is growing both in interest at home and in results abroad. The Southern Baptists gave to this work last Convention year \$247,629.69, and there were 2076 baptisms on the field. The Foreign Mission work appeals more directly to our Christian spirit than any other perhaps, as it is our most unselfish service.

We suggest three motives to Mission efforts. First, it is a means of self-preservation. In saving others we save ourselves. Our home growth began with our Mission efforts. Second, we ought to long to bring our fellowmen the blessings of the Gospel. They are starving, and we have the bread of life. We should take it to them. The third motive is, to win for Christ the reward of his sufferings.

We recommend that the givers increase their liberality, and that a strenuous effort be made to get a contribution from every member of every church in the Lawrence County Association.

Respectfully submitted,

J. P. WILLIAMS, Committee.

By request of the author of the report on Missions, the report on Apportionment was made a part of said report, as follows:

APPORTIONMENT.

Antioch.....	\$ 35 00	Bethel.....	\$ 45 00
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Bethany	175 00	Crooked Creek	100 00
Calvary	175 00	Hepsibah	40 00
New Zion	20 00	New Hope	20 00
Monticello	125 00	Rehoboth	20 00
Society Hill	150 00	Shiloh	60 00
Silver Creek	70 00	Whitesand	55 00
Prentiss	75 00		

Discussion of the report on Ministerial Education was resumed, being spoken to by Elds. J. P. Williams and T. J. Moore, and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

That education is a great help to a minister of the gospel is no longer an unsettled question among Baptists. The fact that God has blessed some men with such marked gifts by nature, that they attained to high degrees of success without a regular college course, does not prove, nor even argue, that such education is not helpful to a minister. Who knows to how much higher degrees of success such men might have attained had they possessed that systematic training of mind that comes through taking a well arranged college course.

So important is education to a minister of the present day that your committee would strongly urge every young man who feels a call to this great work, to take the time in school and college necessary to equip his mind for the study and preaching of God's Word. A ministerial student in college should, along with his regular course of studies, spend some time every day learning some new truths revealed in the Great Book of his sacred calling, and commit to memory some of its precious passages. Bible truth understood, coupled with the gift to make others understand it, is what makes the preacher.

God usually calls poor young men to the work of the ministry, who are not able to educate themselves. Why this is true is not ours to solve, but that it is true all will admit. So, to meet the need of this class of our Lord's young prophets, our Baptist State Convention has a Board of Ministerial Education, with W. T. Lowrey, Clinton, Miss., as President, whose duty it is to see after the financial needs of this class of young preachers

who attend Mississippi College. Our people are fostering no worthier work than this. Let us give it our hearty co-operation and liberal support.

Our own Association has two very worthy and promising young men of the above-named class in our college, and another who is by serious illness deprived of the benefits of this session, and this fact ought to bring this question very close to us.

We recommend that each church take a collection for Ministerial Education in the early part of the ensuing Associational year, and forward to the President of the Board.

Your committee would also impress the importance of systematic and daily study, upon our ministers who are already settled in the work. If a preacher is to remain fresh and instructive to his people he must pursue a life of study and prayer. No minister of the gospel ever gets beyond the need of what is contained in Paul's injunction to Timothy: "Study to show thyself approved unto God: a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. MOORE, Committee.

Proceeding the adoption of the above report, the churches through their messengers subscribed the following try pledges to Ministerial Education, viz:

Antioch	\$ 10 00	Bethany	\$ 20 00
Bethel	5 00	Crooked Creek	15 00
Calvary	20 00	Hepsibah	2 50
New Zion	5 00	Monticello	20 00
Rehoboth	2 50	Society Hill	20 00
Shiloh	10 00	Whitesand	5 00
Prentiss	20 00		

On motion, all speeches were limited to five minutes, except Bro. J. E. Byrd's on Sunday Schools.

The report on Sunday Schools was read, spoken to by Brethren J. F. Burrow and J. E. Byrd—which will be the means we believe of greater Sunday School work in the Lawrence County Association—and adopted, as follows:

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Sunday School is one of the best means through which we are trained and prepared for a useful Christian life. The young mind is the mind most susceptible to impressions. Then can truths be most easily implanted, and as a means to this end, we urge that Sunday School organizations be systematized and perfected, that this important feature of God's work be not neglected.

One great drawback to Sunday Schools, and Sunday School work, is the lack of promptness on the part of its teachers and officers. The hour for convening the Sunday School should be fixed, and meet promptly at the appointed time, and should be conducted in a business like, orderly manner.

Sunday School Literature should be introduced in the Sunday School to make it more helpful and efficient.

Out of the 6634 educable children in Lawrence County, only 590 attend Sunday School, or about 14 per cent. This ought not so to be. The parents and not the pastors of the churches are responsible for this condition.

There are in this Association 13 Sunday Schools, 42 officers and teachers, and the expense of which is \$60.06.

Your committee recommend that a representative be chosen by this body to represent it at the State Sunday School Convention, and further recommend that a Sunday School Institute be organized and time and place designated for same to convene.

Your committee would further recommend that a member be chosen to correspond with the representative of the State Sunday School Board, and furnish such information as shall be needed for his work.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. BURROW, Committee.

On motion, a committee of three, consisting of Eld. J. P. Williams and Brethren D. M. Lee and J. M. Armstrong were appointed to arrange the time and place for permanent organization of a Sunday School Institute.

On motion, leave of absence was granted Brethren J. M. Polk, T. E. Davidson and J. L. Speights.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your committee on Nominations, would beg leave to submit the following report :

Place of next meeting of this body is Bethany, one and one-half miles south of Prentiss, on the Mississippi Central railroad, on Tuesday after the third Sunday in October, 1905, at 10 o'clock a. m., with Eld. L. D. Posey to preach the Associational sermon, with Eld. T. J. Moore, alternate.

The following brethren were assigned subjects to prepare reports for discussion at our next meeting, viz :

On Missions—Eld. L. D. Posey.

On Denominational Schools—Bro. W. C. Maxwell.

On Pastoral Relations—Bro. B. S. Watts.

On Church Discipline—Bro. S. C. Stamps.

On Sunday Schools—Bro. J. M. Armstrong.

On Orphans' Home—Eld. T. J. Moore.

On Ministerial Education—A. C. Buckley.

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. RITCHIE, Chairman.

On motion the reports on Orphans' Home and Temperance were adopted and ordered reprinted as per last year's minutes. They are :

REPORT ON ORPHANS' HOME.

Your committee on Orphans' Home beg leave to make the following report :

On May 12, 1897, the Orphanage was opened at Jackson in a rented house, which was soon filled to its fullest capacity, with Bro. L. S. Foster as Superintendent. Since that time our people have bought one hundred and twelve acres of good land northwest of Jackson, built two neat cottages, a superintendent's home and a splendid three-story brick building, having thus a permanent home for orphan children who are left without father, mother or friends to take care of them.

Since the work began one hundred and forty-eight children have found a home within its walls ; eight of this number have died, sixty one have gone back to their friends or into private

families, while eighty still remain and are dependent upon the Orphanage for support.

Bro. Foster having resigned, Bro. J. R. Carter is now superintendent of the Home, whom we believe will do all he can for the advancement of the work.

We find that there is a debt of \$5313.18 on the Orphanage property, and brethren, let us rise up in our might and relieve the Orphanage of that debt.

Your committee recommend that our people give to the Orphanage their hearty support, both by our prayers and with our money, for God has said, "He that hath pity on the poor lendeth to the Lord, and that which he hath given He will pay him again."—Prov. 19:17. "Leave thy fatherless children; I will preserve them alive."—Jeremiah. "A father of the fatherless is God in His holy habitation."—Ps. 68:5. "Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be happy upon the earth."—Ps. 41:1-2.

Your committee would urge that our people take the Orphanage Gem and read it, that they may know what is being accomplished by our noble work.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

First: God's word tells us in substance to abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, because it is against the right development of all the possibilities of human being.

Second: The times demand a firm and complete stand against whisky, and as Christian people are responsible for the condition of society, we should look well to a right development in the cause of temperance.

Third: The only way to place our influence fully on the side of prohibition is to abstain *entirely* from the use of alcoholic drinks as a beverage.

Fourth: The cause of temperance may be promoted, again

by putting into office such men as will let drink alone three hundred and sixty-six days every fourth year.

Fifth: We should draw the lines more tightly on our church members and *demand* of them "total abstinence," and

Sixth: Take the matter to God in prayer and work for Him in the cause of temperance, and it being of the Lord will stand the adversities of the ages.

Respectfully submitted, COMMITTEE.

REPORT ON CREDENTIALS AND ABSTRACTS.

We, your committee on Credentials and Abstracts made their final report as follows:

Ordained ministers, 5; Licentiates, 2; Baptisms, 165; Received by letter, 121; Restored, 22; Dead, 26; Dismissed by letter, 116; Excluded, 47; Total membership, 2,157; Sunday schools, 13; Officers and teachers, 42; Pupils, 590; Expenses of Sunday schools, \$60.06; Incidentals, \$27.00; Pastors' salaries, \$2,625.00; Paid visiting ministers, \$355.85; Missions, \$1,027.16; Value of church property, \$6,550.00; For the poor, \$29.15; Mississippi College, \$53.00; Ministerial education, \$53.20; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, \$46.70; Orphanage, \$43.80; For minutes, \$44.70; Copies of Minutes, 415.

W. J. ARMSTRONG, Chairman.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

We, your committee on Finance, would submit the following:

There has been sent into the Association by the churches for Missions, Associational and other objects, \$777.11, and turned over the same to Bro. J. M. Armstrong, treasurer of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

A. A. RUSSELL, Chairman.

On motion the report was adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer's Report was read and on motion was adopted as follows:

Received from the Finance committee:

State missions	\$ 87.45
Foreign missions.....	129.35
Home missions	103.80
General missions.....	183.10
Ministerial education	9.70
Sustentation.....	12.25
Minutes	45.70

Total.....\$571.35

Respectfully submitted,

J. M. ARMSTRONG, Treasurer.

REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS.

The report on Publications was read and spoken to by Elds. J. M. Ritchie, T. J. Moore, L. D. Posey and Bro. A. A. Russell. On motion the report was adopted as follows:

We believe that everyone should be educated up to his calling, and in order to reach the higher altitude in our calling, we should come in close touch with each other through the fraternal press of our respected order.

There are few communities now where there is a question of reading, but what is read is the question. As Christians and as Baptists we should read the Bible and take it as our guide. We know of many Baptist publications which we could recommend, but in order that we may know more of our own home work, we recommend the Baptist, Jackson, Miss.; The Orphanage Gem, Jackson, Miss.; Home Field, Atlanta, Ga., and The Foreign Mission Journal, Richmond, Va. We would also recommend the Southern Baptist Convention Series of Sunday School Literature, Nashville, Tenn.

Respectfully submitted,

LUKE POLK

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS EXERCISES.

The report on Religious Exercises was read and on motion adopted as follows:

Sunday school mass-meeting tomorrow at 10 o'clock, conducted by Bro. J. F. Burrow. Preaching in the house at 11 o'clock by Eld. L. D. Posey, and at the stand in the grove at the

same hour by Eld. T. J. Moore.

Respectfully submitted,

H. T. SHIVERS, Chairman.

Resolved, That the Treasurer of this Association is hereby authorized to turn over all moneys now in his hands for missions to Bro. A. V. Rowe, corresponding secretary State Mission Board, and amounts for orphanage to Bro. J. R. Carter, at Jackson, Miss., and to all other objects for which it was given to their respective secretaries.

Resolved, That the clerk of this Association is hereby authorized to superintend the printing and distribution of these Minutes, and that he be allowed \$20.00 for his services.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Association are hereby extended to the members of Antioch Church, and to the friends and community at large for the kind and hospitable manner in which they have entertained them during this session.

On motion adjourned to meet with Bethany Baptist Church, one and one-half miles south of Prentiss, on the Mississippi Central railroad, on Tuesday after the third Sunday in October, 1905, at 10 o'clock a. m.

ELD. L. D. POSEY, Moderator.

WADE POLK, Clerk.

Sunday School Mass-meeting, Sunday, October 2, 1904, was conducted by Bro. J. F. Burrow at the appointed hour. The Sunday school work was spoken to by Brethren J. F. Burrow, J. M. Armstrong, and Elds. J. P. Williams and L. D. Posey, at the conclusion of which Eld. T. J. Moore led in special prayer for the Sunday school work.

At the appointed hour (11 o'clock) Eld. L. D. Posey preached to a "packed" house, using as a text John 10: 27-28 verses. Theme: "The Eternal Security of God's People." At the same hour Eld. T. J. Moore preached at the stand in the grove to an attentive audience. At the conclusion of these exercises a collection was taken for the Orphanage amounting to \$30.31.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

To Sister Associations with which we correspond :

Greeting : We have just closed our fourth session, same being held with Antioch Church, Lawrence county, Miss. The session was helpful and harmonious. All our churches were represented and made good showings of work done during the year in the Master's vineyard, as may be seen by turning to our statistical table.

Your messengers were helpful to us and we hope to continue our fraternal correspondence. Our next session will be held with Bethany Church, one and one-half miles south of Prentiss, on the Mississippi Central railroad, beginning on Tuesday after the third Sunday in October, 1905, at 10 o'clock a. m.

NAMES OF DELEGATES AND CHURCH DIRECTORY.

CHURCHES	NAMES OF DELEGATES	PASTORS	CLERKS
Antioch	R. C. Criscoe, J. J. Osteen, J. F. Thames, J. N. Gunnels, L. Griffith	J. R. G. Reeves, McComb	W. L. McGuffee ... Perch
Bethel	A. H. McGuffee, J. M. Ritchie, Luke Polk	W. R. Webber, Wes' on	Luke Polk ... Monticello
Bethany	W. M. Waller, J. M. Polk	T. J. Moore, Prentiss, S. C. Stamps	S. C. Stamps ... Lee
Crooked C'k	A. C. Culpepper, C. C. Culpepper	R. Drummond, Heb'n W. C. Dale	W. C. Dale ... Hooker
Calvary	J. P. Williams, J. M. Armstrong	J. P. Williams, Silver C	J. M. Armstrong, Silver C
Hepsibah	J. L. Speights	R. Drummond, Heb'n J. A. Daniel	J. A. Daniel ... Bournham
Monticello	S. Hickman	J. P. Williams, Silver C	W. H. Speights, Monticello
New Zion	A. A. Russell, R. H. Townsen, W. T. Foster	W. R. Webber, Wes' on Rilev Townsen	Riley Townsen ... Percn
New Hope	J. J. Catt, J. L. Catt, T. C. Nelson	J. R. G. Reeves, M'Ch H. J. Johnson	H. J. Johnson ... Newit
Prentiss	T. J. Moore, T. E. Davidson	T. J. Moore, Prentiss, J. E. Johnston	J. E. Johnston ... Prentiss
Rehoboth	Lee H. Bird	J. C. Farrar, Venus ...	Lee H. Bird ... Tryus
Shiloh	A. C. Furr, E. Carlisle, W. R. Gibson, E. B. White	J. P. Hemby, Brookhaven	A. C. Furr ... Nola
Silver Creek	W. J. Armstrong, I. E. Fortenberry, G. H. Garrett	T. J. Moore, Prentiss	W. J. Armstrong, M'cel'o
Society Hill	L. D. Posey, J. W. Langston, J. M. Fortenberry, J. F. Bass, F. W. Langston, J. O. Robertson	L. D. Posey, Mt. Carmel	G. M. Buckley ... Dale
Whitesand ...	J. Z. Polk, J. F. Burrow	L. D. Posey, "	R. B. Dale ... Vixen

CHURCH STATISTICS.

CHURCHES	Church Meetings	Ordained Ministers	Baptized	Received by Letter	Restored	Died	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Total Increase	Total Decrease	Total Membership Last Year	Total Membership This Year	No Sunday Schools	Officers and Teachers	Number of Pupils	Sunday School Expenses	Superintendents	Secretaries
Antioch	3	..	5	3	1	2	11	4	9	17	181	173	1	4	40	\$ 1 50	W. P. Boutwell	H. T. Shivers
Bethel	2	1	12	4	..	..	4	1	16	5	82	93	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bethany	3	..	7	7	..	2	25	..	14	27	211	198	1	4	76	..	Ollie Buckley	C. R. Burrow
Crooked Crk	1	1	4	2	..	4	4	..	6	8	203	201	1	3	..	3 00	W. J. Hamilton	Stella Johnson
Calvary	2-4	1	7	20	1	1	3	..	28	4	142	166	1	6	79	16 47	D. C. Griffith	Hervia Armist'g
Hepsibah	3	..	7	3	2	2	..	1	12	3	110	119	..	..	..	..	..	..
Monticello	1st 3	..	2	6	1	2	13	4	9	19	119	120	1	7	76	29 50	D. M. Lee	I. N. Bass
New Zion	3	..	13	2	..	..	7	2	15	9	95	101	1	4	30	1 00	..	..
New Hope	1	..	7	2	..	..	1	2	9	3	75	81	2	4	48	2 00	J. J. Catt	H. J. Johnson
Prentiss	2-3	1	12	44	..	..	..	..	56	..	18	74	1	4	65	11 70	Leon Tyrone	Lillie Moore
Rehoboth	1	..	2	9	..	..	3	..	11	4	61	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shiloh	3	..	10	5	5	2	5	21	20	28	189	181	1	..	..	..	J. C. May	A. C. Furr
Silver Creek	2	1	10	2	6	3	4	7	18	14	146	150	1	4	50	..	D. G. Langston	John Cannon
Society Hill	2	1	44	9	4	3	14	5	57	22	257	292	1	6	91	4 87	Wade Polk	O. F. Tenberry
Whitesand	2	..	23	1	2	4	22	..	26	26	139	139	1	3	35	..	R. B. Dale	J. M. Bridges
			6165	119	2226	116	47306	189	2028	2088	1349	590	\$70 04					

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

CHURCHES	Paid for Minutes	Number Minutes	Pastors' Salary	Foreign Missions	Home Missions	State Missions	General Missions	Paid Visiting Ministers	Other Objects	Value of Church Property	Expended on Church Property	To the Poor	Mississippi College	Ministerial Education	Orphanage
Antioch	\$ 3 00	20	\$100	\$ 4 13	\$ 4 52	\$ 5 11	.....	\$12 15	\$ 3 00	\$1000 00	188 00	.....	.....	\$ 2 52	\$ 4 65
Bethel	2 70	18	100	20 05	10 00	10 00	.....	15 40	.....	500	.....	.....	.....	2 50	.....
Bethany	5 00	40	250	50 00	50 00	62 45	.....	31 80	.....	1000	.....	.....	.....	.....	5 00
Crooked Creek	2 00	20	150	.....	.....	.....	81 75	30 70	.....	500	.....	.....	.....	8 20	.....
Calvary	3 00	25	350	47 00	47 00	33 00	85 50	41 50	.....	700	.....	13 00	53 00	28 00	.....
Hepsiab.	3 00	20	150	20 00	15 00	15 00	.....	20 55	4 50	500	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 90
Monticello.	3 00	20	350	32 00	33 00	43 00	19 00	16 00	.....	1500	.....	.....	12 00	.....	.....
New Zion	3 00	20	100	2 50	2 50	10 00	3 00	10 20	.....	500	5 00	15 15	.....	.....	.....
New Hope.	1 50	15	75	15 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	500	19 50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Prentiss	2 50	25	125	35 95	35 90	22 00	.....	51 60	27 75	.....	80 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Rehoboth	.....	10	75	.....	3 85	5 80	.....	.....	18 00	300	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Shiloh	3 00	25	200	10 25	25 00	.....	.....	14 00	2 50	350	15 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Silver Creek	3 50	25	150	16 30	16 30	17 60	.....	25 75	9 00	1000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Society Hill	7 50	50	200	.....	.....	.....	112 75	50 00	12 25	500	75 00	18 65	.....	46 70	26 25
Whitesand	4 00	30	150	3 55	15 75	21 20	.....	36 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
	\$47 70	403	\$2525	261 48	258 82	245 16	302 00	355 65	77 00	9850 00	512 50	146 80	65 00	84 92	43 80

